

Buckeye Flyer

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Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

March 2003

Orders received. Let's go!

by Master Sgt. John Klemack and
Senior Airman Robert Sperling
445th AW/Public Affairs

More than 300 of the more than 2,000 Air Force Reservists assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing's maintenance and flying units received activation orders in preparation for possible deployment. They will be activated for an initial period of 12 months to support the Global War on Terrorism and prepare for future contingencies. The call-up includes pilots, flight engineers, loadmasters, and aircraft maintenance personnel.

In the wake of the activation, several crews traveled Ft. Campbell, Ky., to pick-up equipment and some personnel from the 101st Airborne Division. The C-141s will travel from Ft. Campbell into the European theater, with further travel into U.S. Central Command's "area of responsibility."

This is the wing's largest mobilization since the war on terror began, but members of the unit were already serving, voluntarily, on active duty when the orders came. The 101st Airborne Division and 445th Airlift Wing are supporting Operation



Tech. Sgt. Paul from the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron qualifies on the M-16A2 at the Wing's weapons simulator. He is from Seymour, Indiana. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Raquel Matthews)

Enduring Freedom and the global war on terrorism.

Between Sept. 11, 2001, and this activation, the 445th has met Air Force requirements with volunteers. The first such volunteer mission took place on Sept. 12, 2001, carrying blood, medical supplies, and 22 surgical, trauma and critical-care specialists to McGuire AFB, N.J., and on Sept. 17, airlifting FEMA personnel from California to New York.

The wing has transported roughly half of the al-Qaeda and Taliban detainees from Afghanistan to Guantanamo, Cuba; flew the remains of American service members killed in Afghanistan to Ramstein Air Base, Germany; provided "air ambulance" service – returning wounded soldiers to the U.S.; deployed security forces to stateside military installations to provide security

while active duty forces deployed overseas; activated personnel for TRICARE, family, and mission support functions for Operation Enduring Freedom; and, on Jan. 24, 2003, established a C-141 staging point in the European Theater to facilitate troop, equipment, and supply transport into the Central Command's area of operations.

The reservists join more than 150,000 U.S. Reserve and National Guard members activated in recent months. Some of the members who received activation orders were already deployed overseas on voluntary active duty and others will be "mobilized in place" here at Wright-Patt.

"We all watch the news, but we all know why we wear the uniform and what our job is," said Brig. Gen. "Rusty" Moen, commander, 445th Airlift Wing.



Cargo is loaded on a 445th C-141 for delivery to one of the various staging facilities established to support the ongoing war on terror.

Standing strong during difficult times

by Capt. Chaplain Bill Dickens
445th AW/Protestant Chaplain

We, as a nation and as individuals, have taken so much for granted: our lives, our liberties, our freedom and the ability to pursue happiness. Sept. 11, 2001 forever altered these foundational principles. We live in a troubled nation, not unlike the nation of Judah, ruled by King Asa. II Chronicles 15:5 tells us:

“And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all inhabitants of the lands.”

Not a very hopeful situation. It seems like daily there are new threats to our safety and our way of life. We wonder if there will ever be a time of peace, a time when we can let our guard down.

There is hope! In II Chronicles 15:7 (two verses later) the Lord tells King Asa:

“But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.”

For everyone in the 445th and for our families, our mission does matter. If we maintain our strength, maintain our resolve, be diligent in what we do, we will be rewarded. That reward just might be peace.

Have a great day, knowing that whatever you do in support of the mission, no matter how large or small, will be rewarded.

Readiness ... in every sense of the word

by Brig. Gen. Rusty Moen
445th AW/Commander



Your 445th Airlift Wing has been in the news quite a bit lately because of the numerous missions we have flown in support of the global war on terrorism, and support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

As you should all be aware of by now, our flying squadrons and a good number of our maintainers, more than 300 in all, were called to active duty over the Valentines Day/Presidents Day weekend. That activation comes on the heels of numerous short- and long-term tours of duty performed by hundreds of 445th Citizen Airmen since Sept. 11, 2001 – all in support of worldwide requirements for OEF, ONE, and ongoing participation in Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotations. The operations tempo has been dramatically accelerated, including such diverse missions as Operation Deep Freeze, where our aircrews and maintainers are flying vital passenger and cargo airlift missions out of Christchurch, New Zealand, into the U.S. National Science Foundation’s research facilities at McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

The constant in common to every tasking we receive is the Air Force’s knowledge of, and confidence in, our readiness. They know we are ready, willing, and able to step up and get the job done, regardless of the degree of difficulty, remoteness of operating location, or hardships encountered. We have the training. Our shots are up to date.

We have chemical warfare, self-aid/buddy care, firearms, and all the other required training completed.

We are ready.

But I cannot emphasize enough the importance of another aspect of readiness that perhaps some of us take for granted or wait until the eleventh hour to attend to, resulting in a mad scramble to make sure this critical aspect of our military service is taken care of.

I’m talking about family readiness.

Get in touch with our 445th Airlift Wing Family Support office at your first opportunity. Find out about all of the services and programs they have to help you take care of a myriad of family needs in your absence. A whole host of resources are at your disposal through Family Support—from child care to financial planning assistance; from legal advice to information on TriCare; from educational and employment opportunities to assistance in preparing for mobilization, deployment, and extended separation.

I urge every wing member to put Family Support at the top of your list of readiness requirements. A good start is making sure you have completed the Family Support office’s Form 73, “Family Readiness Data Card.” It is an important aspect of helping them assess your family’s needs in the event of your deployment.

We know we’re ready to perform our military duties as the commander-in-chief directs. Let’s make it a top priority to ensure that our families are equally ready.

(Editor’s note: The 445th Airlift Wing Family Support Office is located in Bldg. 4035, Rm. 18. The local phone number is 937-656-1502. The wing toll free number is 866-371-2316.)

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For my heroes

by Senior Airman Robert Sperling
445th AW/Public Affairs

A hero, as defined by Webster's dictionary is, "(a person) that shows great courage," or "a mythological or legendary figure often of divine descent and endowed with great strength and ability." This last definition of a hero most resembles people's heroes, they are the ones that perform super-human feats and are impervious to harm, but for others, heroes are ordinary people that accomplish great things and overcome great odds.

Several members of the 445th Airlift Wing have taken it upon themselves to help their heroes by training to run or walk marathons, participate in cycling centuries (100-mile rides), and triathlons.

They are members or alumni of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training.

Team in Training is a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise funds for research to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and to improve the

quality of life of patients and their families.

Throughout the 11-year existence of the southern Ohio chapter of Team in Training, it has raised over \$10 million and trained over 700 athletes to pursue their mission of finding a cure. The local chapter encompasses a vast area including 20 counties in southwest Ohio and three in northern Kentucky.

Tech. Sgt. Chris Kotsko, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and Team in Training

member, recently ran the 26.2-mile Minefield Marathon, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The course took runners four times around the base and through active minefields on the perimeter of the compound. Sgt. Kotsko participated in the marathon as a member of Team in Training, and carried two American flags for his heroes here in southwest Ohio, and a cause he feels deeply about. Kotsko volunteered to deploy to the region to assist Army and Air Force medical facilities.

Kotsko was invited to be a guest speaker at the Team in Training annual awards breakfast, Feb. 1. The breakfast was a chance for Team in Training members to recognize those that had raised specific increments of money for research, participated in a specific number of events, and also a chance to recognize their "heroes," or the patients and families who suffer with the various blood cancers.

Prior to his speech, Sgt. Kotsko formally presented one of his heroes, Daniel Herschline, who is in remission from leukemia and is a resident of Dayton, Ohio, with one of the two



Tech. Sgt. Chris Kotsko presents the American flag that he carried with him during the Minefield Marathon to Daniel Herschline, his hero. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Raquel Matthews)

folded American flags that he had carried with him through the minefield marathon. The second flag will be presented later to a young boy from Columbus, Ohio who is suffering from leukemia.

During the presentation, Sgt. Kotsko recognized Daniel's strength and fortitude in overcoming leukemia and being an inspiration for others. "I was diagnosed with lymphoma in 1998, so I know what these kids are going through," said Kotsko who has been in remission since 1999. "I remember the chemotherapy treatment, the radiation therapy, and I remember my hair falling out from the treatments. These kids and I have a special relationship," Kotsko said. When speaking about his reasons for participating in the Minefield Marathon he stated, "I wanted something good to come out of this, and I wanted someone to benefit from my experience."

Daniel and Chris personify the entire Team in Training program, the people that volunteer to be a part of the program think not of themselves, but of what they can do for others.



Tech. Sgt. Kotsko proudly displays the two flags he carried with him through the marathon at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. One of the flags is the one that was presented at the Team in Training awards breakfast. (Courtesy photo)

Reserve airmen help outfit the world

By Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller
445th AW/Public Affairs

Thousands of boxes, skids and pallets stacked 30-feet high fill Wright-Patt's building 13. This is home to the 445th Combat Logistics Support Squadron; its mission is to supply every member of every branch of the military with new state-of-the-art chemical gear.

The 445th's CLSS, the active duty Air Force Consolidated Mobility Bag Control Center and 654th CLSS from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. have been in the thick of it for seven months now.

"This is *big* potatoes," stressed Capt. Ron Courey, Deployment Officer for the 445th CLSS, describing the massive scope of the mission. "Chemical warfare is on everyone's radar screen."

Dozens of empty flatbed semi-trucks routinely pull into building 13, and are immediately surrounded by loaded forklifts. The shipments taken from Wright-Patterson are bound for all corners of the world. Some of the trucks will drive to Navy installations where their cargo will be sent to Marines and seamen on ships at sea. A number of the trucks will drive to stateside Army and Air Force installations.

"We're helping not just airmen, but members of the Army, Navy and Marines," said Senior Airman Allitia Brown, inventory management specialist at the 445th CLSS.

"We are opening hundreds of boxes and inventorying the contents," said Tech. Sgt. LeeGurtha Lucas, CLSS inventory management specialist. "Quality control is critical. You have to be accurate when inspecting for manufactures date, defects, in packaging, manufacturers identification numbers and expiration dates."

"Sending out a suit or filter past its expiration date could be a matter of life or death," Lucas said. "There is no room for mistakes. This is a huge mission, a world-wide mission, and I feel honored and privileged to be part of it."

"We are touching a lot of lives," said Tech. Sgt. Leroy Sanders, CLSS aircraft fuels system craftsman. "Peoples' lives depend on this mission. It's a real-world situation."

Other CLSS members have warehousing



Members of Wright-Patt's 445th CLSS and AFCMBCC, and Tinker's 654th CLSS, pitch-in to secure a pallet before it is sent out into the world to be distributed to the war-fighters. Staff. Sgt. Ronald Humphrey, 654th CLSS, and Airman 1st Class Tony Lambert, AFCMBCC, (both left) adjust straps on one side of a pallet while Senior Airman Allittia Brown, 445th CLSS, (above) sinches down the opposite side.

ton after ton of shipments during the past seven months. Tech. Sgt. Ivory Orr, inventory management specialist, has worked every corner of the operation.

"The responsibilities and tasks are growing daily," Orr said. "It's a big issue and a very worthwhile cause." He serves as a forklift trainer to active duty airmen who came here from the 654th CLSS, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. With his help, they obtained forklift operators licenses, essential to the huge operation.

The CLSS members, all volunteers, are sometimes tasked with working weekends and evenings. "But that's okay," said Brown. "We signed up to do a mission and it has to be done. This is an important and on-going operation."

More than 2.4 million of the Joint Services Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology, the new chemical suit, and the Chemical Warfare Defense Equipment ensembles have been shipped from the base. The assets have a total value in excess of \$60 million dollars.

The consolidation center provides the assets to deployed forces supporting real world contingencies.

The operation here was originally to be

a contracted job. At a point in the planning process, the scope of the operation was deemed critical enough to require the flexibility of military personnel who can work a variety of hours and can be shifted easily to different work locations. The operation at Wright-Patt was previously at Beale Air Force Base, Calif. and Avon Park, Fla. It was consolidated here in October 2002.

"If there are 2,000 troops on the ground and they need that many assets to support all of them, we will supply them," Courey said.

"For the reserve piece of the pie, Headquarters Air Combat Command was tasked by the Secretary of Defense to make this happen," Courey said. "The control center called on the 445th CLSS's reservists to assist with inventorying and warehousing the assets."

We started working on this before the center's standup date of October 2002, and the work today with our supply and transportation folks continues. Our teams of Rapid Area Distribution Support have also been used. This is all to support Operation Enduring Freedom," Courey said.

"It's total force," he concluded.



Biological/Chemical warfare protection

*Intro by Senior Airman Robert Sperling
445th AW/ Public Affairs*

The threat of bio-terrorism is real and immediate. The nation's Homeland Defense threat level is now elevated to ORANGE, the second to the highest level, and we are tetering of the brink of conflict.

With the threat looming in the air the people of the United States are currently buying out store supplies of duct tape, plactic lining material, and water in the hopes of protecting themselves and their families from the chemical and biological attack threat.

In response to this threat and the threat that has long existed, the military trains its personnel to fight in the austere environment of chemical and biological warfare.

Training for the conditions of chemical and biological warfare is typically performed annually for military members, and the training has recently changed for those in the reserve. For the majority of reservists who wear their uniform a couple days a month, the required equipment maintenance and inspections could and do fall by the way-side.

Proper maintenance, care and knowledge of MOPP equipment is vital to mission success and the safety of troops in the field, compiled on the rest of this page is a portion of the material found in the "Airman's Manual" — Air Force Manual 10-100.

First and foremost deployable personnel need to be knowledgeable in the various mission-oriented protective postures (MOPP) and the appropriate ground-crew ensemble variations associated with each of the five MOPP levels in addition to MOPP level alpha. The decision determining a particular MOPP level is made by either the command post or the survival recovery center.

MOBILITY

MOPP Level 0

Worn during periods of increased alert when the enemy has an ability to employ chemical and/or biological agents, **but no immediate indications exist.**

Wear: Mask Carrier, Field Gear, Web belt with canteen, Helmet



MOPP Level 1

Worn when a chemical and/ or biological attack is **POSSIBLE**

Wear: Over garment, Mask carrier, Field Gear

Carry: Footwear covers, Mask and Hood, Gloves



MOPP Level 2

Worn when a chemical and/ or biological attack is **PROBABLE**

Wear: Over garment, Mask carrier, Field gear, Footwear cover

Carry: Mask and Hood, Gloves



MOPP Level 3

Worn when in an area where contact with chemical and/or biological agents is **NEGLIBLE**

Wear: Over garment, Mask carrier, Mask and Hood, Field gear, Footwear covers

Carry: Gloves



MOPP Level 4

Worn when the highest degree of protection is required. Chemical and/ or biological agents are **PRESENT**

Wear: Over garment, Mask Carrier, Mask and Hood, Field gear, Footwear covers, Gloves



MOPP Level Alpha

Provides flexibility for accomplishing the mission by performing mission critical tasks in a post-attack environment while wearing the mask and hood, and gloves only. This level of protection is a realistic possibility only after confirmation of agent type, persistency, and actual hazard location.

Only the commander can determine whether MOPP ALPHA conditions exist.

Wear: Mask and Hood, Field gear, Gloves

Carry: Overgarment, Footwear covers



Wing's Enlisted Reservists of the Year recipients

Airman of the Year – Senior Airman Tekara Ray

Senior Airman Tekara L. Ray was presented, by Gen. Moen, the honor of being the 445th Airlift Wing's Airman of the Year at February's commander's call proceedings at the base theater.



Senior Airman Ray is a Medical Services Specialist with the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. Airman Ray is a skilled Emergency Medical Technician, who during 2002 was a valued instructor for the staging squadron's Emergency Medical Technician training program. During that time, she provided valuable and critical service while deployed to Kadena Air Force Base, Japan, training firefighters to be certified emergency medical technicians. Senior Airman Ray developed a skills testing portion of the test to facilitate hands on instructions for students.

Airman Ray was born in Elyria, Ohio. She currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio and has earned a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education.

NCO of the Year – Master Sgt. Harold Ford

Master Sgt. Harold K. Ford was recognized as the 445th Airlift Wing's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year by Brig. Gen. Moen at February's commander's call proceedings at the base theater.



Sgt. Ford is a Security Forces Specialist with the 445th Security Forces Squadron. For most of 2002, Sgt. Ford was deployed to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., where he served as the Non-commissioned Officer-in-Charge of Water Patrol Operations there. While deployed, Sgt. Ford was first on the scene of a Tampa Police Dept helicopter crash. On the scene he assisted in extracting the two pilots and providing first-aid. Master Sgt. Ford was also recognized as the Air Force Sergeant's Association, Chapter #751's outstanding Guardsmen/Reservist of 2002.

Master Sgt. Ford was born in Columbus, Ohio and he and his wife Beth reside in Heath, Ohio.

SNCO of the Year – Master Sgt. Matthew Thompson

Master Sgt. Matthew K. Thompson was presented with the honor of being the 445th Airlift Wing's Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year by Brig. Gen. Moen at February's commander's call.



Sgt. Thompson has served as the non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Vehicle Operations for the 445th Logistics Support Squadron. During 2002, Thompson's role in the Logistics Group was key, through his abilities to identify problems and formulate solutions to those problems he ensured that the mission continued uninhibited. During the year, he procured and coordinated transportation requirements for local and transiting personnel and equipment in support of the wing's Operational Readiness Inspection.

Master Sgt. Thompson's proven leadership skills promote rapport in the people he supervises, fitting each person to a specific task. Sgt. Thompson was born in Indianapolis, Ind., and he and his wife Terri make their home in Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

To fight for those who have fought before

by Senior Airman Robert N. Sperling
445th AW/ Public Affairs

Veteran of the Year is a tremendous honor to bestow upon one person; the title denotes recognition of amazing feats of greatness and an exemplary display of service before self. The 445th Maintenance Squadron has one such individual who demonstrates daily his dedication to those who have fought, and are fighting for freedom.

Tech. Sgt. Michael E. Lane, 445th Maintenance Squadron, Sheet Metal Shop was honored and surprised with the title "Veteran of the Year" for American Legion Post #200, Huber Heights, Ohio, when they presented him with a plaque Dec. 11, 2002.

Lane is the post's service officer, and as part of his position he assists veterans' requests for help activating or acquiring

benefit services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"I'll help anybody with VA related issues, they don't need to be a member of the American Legion, just a veteran," said Lane. When describing his role in the process he said, "It's just something I do."

Lane has been in the military off and on for over 25 years, he started his career in the Navy and is now an air reserve technician with the maintenance squadron.

Sgt. Lane is very active within his squadron and is always willing to help someone else or their families with benefits advice or help, he also actively participates in events sponsored by his post and is the post's representative to the county's government counsel.

Lane's network of resources enables him to fight vigorously for the veterans he represents. "I have done this for quite a few years and have been fortunate to know many people who really understand the VA system and have been able to teach me what they knew," said Lane.

"Being presented with this title is a great honor, but I would do what I do regardless of recognition," said Lane.

Welcome and Congratulations!

Promotions

Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated.

Airman

AMN Mathina Evans, 445 MSS
AMN Charlotte Williams, 445 MSS



Airman First Class

A1C Kerry Hahn, 445 MSS



Captain

Capt. Valerie Coffman, 445 ASTS



Reenlistments

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently re-enlisted in the Reserve.

SrA James Fuller, 89 AS
SSgt. Ryan Hillis, 445 CES
SSgt. Brian Jones, 445 SFS
SSgt. Frankie Lowder Jr., 445 SFS
TSgt. Timothy Back, 445 AMDS
TSgt. Mark Fellows, 445 AMDS
TSgt. Steven Kaufman, 445 MXS
TSgt. Karen Scholz, 445 AMDS
MSgt. John Mangas, 87 APS
MSgt. Leah Monhart, 87 APS
MSgt. Jay Thompson, 445 AMXS
MSgt. William Thornhill, 356 AS
SMSgt. Wilbert McCutcheon Jr., 445 CES
SMSgt. John Mills, 445 OSS
SMSgt. Timothy Reuber, 445 OSS
CMSgt. Gary Maynard, 445 CLSS

Newcomers

Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:

AB Conley Douglas, 445 ASTS
AMN Colin Bolton, 445 MSS
A1C Casey Collard, 445 ASTS
A1C Jason Frazier, 445 AGS
A1C Kimberly Kurzawa, 445 AGS
A1C Holly Oneal, 445 AMDS
A1C Michael Sligh, 89 AS
A1C Joel Spitzer, 445 MSS
A1C John Wukelich, 445 AMDS
SrA Oliver Fisher, 445 CES
SrA Joey Stone, 445 AES
SrA Douglas Watson, 445 SVS
SSgt. Richard Burkheiser, 445 MXS
SSgt. Annamaria Davis, 89 AS
SSgt. Stephen Graves, 445 AMDS
SSgt. James Harris, 445 SFS
SSgt. Melissa Lewis, 445 MG
SSgt. Randy Myers, 87 APS
Capt. Janene Lesko, 445 ASTS
John Stewart, 87 APS
Shannon Hodge, 87 APS
Erich Black, 445 AMXS
Kenneth Eads, 445 LRS

Awards

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.

Meritorious Service Medal

LTC Candace Yakimow, 445 AES
LTC David Kellner, 445 SPT GP
LTC Stan Sheley, 445 MXS
LTC Oba Vincent, 445 ASTS
LTC Karl Ludolph Jr., 89 AS

LTC David Stroud, 89 AS
Maj. Carlotta Webb, 445 AES
Maj. Katherine Kalns, 445 AES
Maj. Curtis Luther, 445 OSS
Maj. Martin Wilkins, 445 OSS
Maj. Robin Thompson, 89 AS
Capt. Jeffrey Collins, 445 ASTS
Capt. Todd Mulhorn, 445 AES
Capt. Timothy Downs, 445 ASTS
CMSgt. Richard Hayes Jr., 356 AS
SMSgt. Jeffrey Allen, 445 AMXS
SMSgt. Leonard Getts, 445 MSS
SMSgt. Stephen Bell, 445 OSS
SMSgt. Teresa Kennedy, 445 AES
MSgt. Ralph Conner III, 445 AMXS
MSgt. Thomas Printz, 445 MXS
MSgt. Phyllisteen Floyd, 445 AW
MSgt. Annette Jones, 445 OSS
MSgt. David Valentine, 445 MXS
MSgt. John Wolfram, 445 MXS
TSgt. John Bauer II, 445 MXS
TSgt. Gary Hillyer, 445 CF
TSgt. Steven Sherlock, 445 MXS

Aerial Achievement Medal

LTC Philip Pierce Jr., 89 AS
Maj. Jon Koch, 356 AS
Maj. Charles Larson, 356 AS
Capt. Richard Webster, 356 AS
SMSgt. Phillip Fernandez, 356 AS
MSgt. John Costello, 89 AS
MSgt. Jeffery Davis, 89 AS
MSgt. Teresa Pitstick, 89 AS
MSgt. Robert Welshhans Jr., 89 AS
TSgt. Robert Brown, 356 AS
TSgt. Jerald Cremeens Jr., 356 AS
TSgt. Brian Dawes, 356 AS
TSgt. Thomas Wilks, 356 AS

Air Force Commendation Award

Maj. Irene Benson, 445 ASTS
Capt. Franklin Harbert Jr., 445 AES
Capt. Matthew Smith, 356 AS
Capt. Scott Williams, 445 ASTS
Capt. Paul Neef, 445 MOS
Capt. Richard Webster, 356 AS
2nd.Lt. Stacy Gartrell, 445 ASTS
MSgt. Michael Johnston, 445 MSG
MSgt. Robert Naehring, 445 OSS
MSgt. Kevin Steyer, 356 AS
TSgt. Beth Bohman, 87 APS
TSgt. Paul Bower III, 445 OSS
TSgt. Carlton Edwards, 87 APS
TSgt. Mark Lyle, 445 ASTS
TSgt. Thomas McVey, 87 APS
TSgt. Richard Radabaugh, 87 APS
TSgt. Sylvia Rogers, 87 APS
TSgt. John Schilling, 445 MXS
TSgt. Elizabeth White, 87 APS
TSgt. Edward Hurst, 445 MXS
SSgt. Scott Schrier, 445 AMXS
SSgt. Robyn Yeager, 87 APS
SSgt. Charles Miller, 445 AW

Air Force Achievement Medal

Capt. Darren Duncan, 445 AW
Capt. Charles Huff, 445 ASTS
1st. Lt. Jonathan Bell, 356 AS
1st. Lt. Thomas Fuhrman, 356 AS
SMSgt. Cecil Dalton, 445 AW
TSgt. Charles Anderson, 445 CLSS
TSgt. Dirk King, 445 CLSS
TSgt. Monte Snyder, 445 MOS
SSgt. Scott Lawson, 445 CLSS
SSgt. Gregory Ridgeway, 445 CLSS
SSgt. Ed Sims, 445 CLSS
TSgt. Robert Brown, 356 AS
TSgt. David Dixon, 356 AS

Maintenance squadron's Sharp Troop Award

*by Staff Sgt. Raquel Matthews
445th AW/ Public Affairs*

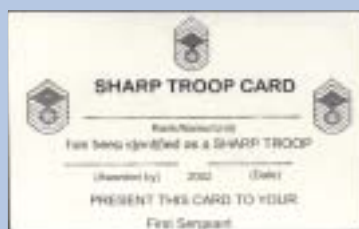
Once a year, members of the 445th Maintenance Squadron's Top Three are given one card to present to airmen or non-commissioned officers they want to recognize for a job well done, looking sharp in uniform, or going out of their way to do something above and beyond.

The only requirement for this award is that they must be a technical sergeant or below. Once given the card, recipients present the card to the first sergeant. Quarterly, each person recognized will receive a certificate and \$25, donated by the Top Three.

"The Sharp Troop Award is a program where senior noncommissioned officers recognize their junior troops for acts

that may otherwise go unnoticed," said 1st Sgt J. J. Smith, 445th Maintenance Squadron. "For example, I saw one of my troop's pick-up some trash outside of the dining facility, so I gave her a card."

The squadron has just completed its first year for this program. If you would like more information about this program, you may call Senior Master Sgt. J.J. Smith at (937) 470-7019.



The MXS Sharp Troop Card that is presented to individuals, E-6 and below, for outstanding achievements above and beyond what is required.

Wing Notes

The VA hospital residents need our help

Senior Master Sgt. J.J. Smith, 445th MXS, and the other squadron 1st Sgts. will be undertaking a quarterly collection for the veterans living at the veteran's hospital. The 1st Sgts. are looking for toiletry items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, and various other items. The collection point will be located at the base theater during wing commander's call and also at your 1st Sgt's office. For more information on the items that the veterans require and how you can help please contact 1st Sgt. Smith (937) 470-7019.

AAFES' STAR Card benefits for deployed personnel

To protect service members and support their families, Military Star credit card offers two options during this time.

1. Cardholders can reduce the interest rate to 6 percent with no monthly payments while they or their families continue to use the account during the deployment.
2. Service members can freeze their accounts and receive zero percent interest with no monthly payments. Cardholders and their families then forgo use of the card during the deployment.

Unit commanders or their representatives must notify the Customer Call Center of Military Star and provide a copy of the deployment orders to ensure their troops receive the deployment benefits.

Detailed instructions on this policy can be found at: www.aafes.com under Military Star.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL
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'Emergency data cards' move to Web

*Courtesy of Air Force Personnel
Command News Service*

Airmen can now update their emergency contact information from any Web-connected computer as an alternate means to visiting their military personnel flights.

Called the Virtual Record of Emergency Data, or vRED, the form provides the Air Force with information needed to contact family members if an airman suffers a serious illness or injury, or dies while on active duty.

The vRED replaces the Department of Defense Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, and will need to be kept updated individually. The vMPF will prompt airmen to update their emergency data upon login.

Also, local military personnel flights will notify airmen based on location when they must sign on and establish their initial electronic form, said Maj. Jerry Couvillion, chief of the casualty services branch here. The transition is expected to last until June; however, people at remote locations without Internet access can still use paper copies of the form.

"The biggest advantage is convenience for the customer," he said. "People won't have to stand in line at the MPF to make simple changes to their contact information."

The innovation comes as the Air Force increases its number of deployed airmen, said Maj. Gen. Thomas O'Riordan, personnel center commander.

"Updating emergency data is important," he said. "It is a crucial part of expeditionary preparation."

Accurate and current family contact information can prevent delays of medical, casualty and death benefits for airmen and

family members, officials said. It also avoids hours or even days of uncertainty during which casualty teams are sometimes left to track down next of kin.

"That emergency information is essential for our casualty notification teams in case an airman becomes incapacitated or worse yet, killed," Couvillion said. "Once the member initially completes the form, they will be able to go in at any time and update specific information as needed. It's simple and saves time."

Personnel officials encourage all active-duty, Guard and Reserve airmen to update their information every six months, prior to deployments and after moving.

On the AFPC Web page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil, people can select the "vMPF" logo at the top of the page. New vMPF users will need to establish an account.

The online application, which will take most people about 15 minutes, requires information on relatives and their addresses.

For more information about the vMPF, call the Air Force Contact Center at (866) 229-7074.



From the AFPC home-page click the Virtual MPF Secure Self Service icon in the upper right of the page. In the next page look for the above logo at the bottom, click, enter your user ID and password and you are now at the virtual MPF.

